

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 SS-15 /035 W

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R 011525Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3685

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM EGY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN COMMUNICATIONS

REF CAIRO 0014

1. ASRAF MARWAN SENT WHAT HE CALLED "OFFICIAL" GOE WORD TO AMBASSADOR TODAY THAT IF STATE DEPT DOES NOT GIVE GOE PERMISSION TO OPERATE A FIVE KILOWATT TRANSMITTER OUT OF ITS NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON MISSION, PREFERABLY NEW YORK, MARWAN WILL SEND US FORMAL NOTE WITHDRAWING PREVIOUSLY GRANTED EGYPTIAN APPROVAL FOR SKYLINK COMMUNICATIONS. DEPT WILL RECALL THIS WAS APPROVED IN LETTER FROM MARWAN TO AMBASSADOR CITED REFTEL. MARWAN CLAIMED GOE HAS FOR PAST THREE YEARS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO OPERATE FIVE KILOWATT TRANSMITTER. MARWAN STATES GOE ONLY HAS PERMISSION FOR ONE KW WITH WHICH IT CANNOT HAVE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO AND WASHINGTON AND REQUIRES A PARIS RELAY.

2. MARWAN'S MESSAGE WAS SENT THROUGH RELIABLE AMERICAN INTERMEDIARY, WHO GAINED IMPRESSION MARWAN WAS SERIOUS IN HIS THREAT. AMBASSADOR INTENDS DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH MARWAN, BUT BEFORE DOING SO NEEDS FULL BACKGROUND OF THIS PROBLEM. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT IS BASIS FOR TURNING DOWN EGYPTIANS IN PAST AND WHAT WAS LAST OCCASION WHEN EGYPTIANS RAISED SUBJECT? ALTHOUGH OUR BACK-UP HF RADIO UTILIZES NO MORE THAN ONE KW, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE WE DO NOT HAVE RECIPROCAL RADIO RIGHTS. WE UNDERSTAND SKYLINK RADIATES APPROXIMATELY

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500 WATTS OR ONE-HALF KILOWATT. WE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE

TO ARGUE CASE IN TERMS OF STRICT RECIPROCITY AND MUST
KNOW ALL RPT ALL RELEVANT DETAILS.

3. AS DEPT AWARE, WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF
INSTALLING SKYLINK COMMUNICATIONS. WE COULD CALL THIS
OFF PENDING RESOLUTION OF AFOREMENTIONED PROBLEM, BUT
RECOMMEND WE DO NOT DO SO. THERE IS ADMITTEDLY RISK
IN PROCEEDING AS PLANNED, BUT BELIEVE IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS THERE IS REASONABLE CHANCE OF DISSUADING
MARWAN FROM IMPLEMENTING THREAT PROVIDED WE CAN ASSURE
EGYPTIANS WE ARE ACCORDING THEM STRICT RECIPROCITY.
EILTS

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